T-533 LADY KATIE (skipjack) Tilghman, Maryland

LADY KATIE is a 46.2' long two-sail bateau, or V-bottomed deadrise type of centerboard sloop, commonly referred to as a skipjack. She has a beam of 16.7', a depth of 1.3', and a gross registered tonnage of 8. She carries a typical skipjack rig of jib-headed mainsail and a single large jib with a club on its foot. Built in 1955-6 by Bronza Parks of Wingate, Maryland following traditional Bay design and construction methods, LADY KATIE is significant as being one of the 35 surviving traditional Chesapeake Bay skipjacks and a member of the last commercial sailing fleet in the United States. LADY KATIE is of special interest for having been built by the noted boatbuilder Bronza Parks during the post World War II revival of skipjack building for the working oyster fleet.

## Maryland Historical Trust Late Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE \_\_yes x no

CHESAPEAKE BAY SKIPJACK FLEET THEMATIC GROUP

1.	Name (	indicate pref	erred name)		teranas paraganiar neusculp, ordy ras yea (Allike Lauges) iyy pags persioniyy ya Mancasiat daplar de sove estaddi.
histori	c LADY	KATIE			
and/or	common skipj	ack			
2.	Location	n et skriver fan de skriver en de sk	radiklaso olivriks syonosamiani noovasilakos terologia malika kissosoja kerista		
street	& number Gib	sontown Road			n/anot for publication
city, to	own Tilghman		n/a_vicinity of	congressional district	First
sta <b>te</b>	Maryland	024	county	Talbot 041	
3.	Classifica	ation			
bı	strict	c te cquisition	Status occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible xyes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture _X commercial _X educational _X_ entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific X transportation other:
4.	Owner of	Propert	<b>y</b> (give names an	nd mailing address	ses of <u>all</u> owners)
name	Captain St	anley Larrim	ore		
stre <b>e</b> t	& numb <b>er</b>			tel <b>e</b> phone	no.: 886-2459
city, to	wn Tilghman		state	and zip code Mar	yland 21671
5.	Location	of Lega	I Description	on	The Control of the Assessment of the Control of the
courth	ouse, registry of deed	s, etc. n/a	L		liber
street	& number				folio
city, to	wn			state	
<u>6.</u>	Represen	tation i	n Existing	Historical Sur	veys
title	Survey of Surv	iving Tradit	ional Chesapeake H	Bay Craft	
date	1983–1984			federalX st	ate county local
deposi	tory for survey record	<b>s</b> Marylan	d Historical Trust		
city, to	wn Anna	polis		state	MD 21401

#### 7. Description

Survey No. T-533

deterioratedgoodruinsfairunexposed	Check one unaltered x altered	Check one n/a original site moved date of moven/a

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This vessel is a 46.2'-long two sail bateau, or V-bottomed deadrise type of centerboard sloop, commonly referred to as a skipjack. She was built in 1956 by Bronza Parks, a noted local boatbuilder in Wingate, Maryland, one of a group of three sister vessels all built at the same time. Both sister vessels—the MARTHA LEWIS and the ROSIE PARKS—are still sailing although the latter vessel is now in the collection at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum and no longer dredges for oysters. LADY KATIE is built by cross—planked construction methods in typical Bay fashion. She has traditional proportions, with a beam of 16.7', about 1/3 her lenght and a shallow draft of 1.3'. Her gross tonnage is 8 register tons. She has alonghead or clipper bow and a square stern. Her wooden hull is painted the traditional white. She dredges for oysters in the winter months and is used for charter during the summer by her owner who also served as captain.

LADY KATIE has a sharp bow with a straight, slightly raking stem and a longhead. Her transom stern is steeply raking, with a plug rudder carried inboard on a stock. The transom is rounded at the edges with a beaded surround. There is a chock for the pushboat centered on the transom. A enterboard is cased in a mássive trunk belowdecks.

This is a single mast, ranked slightly aft, with a visible curved aft in the top of the mast. The mast is reinforced at the base with a metal sleeve and is set in hexagonal mast partners extending 2 1/2' above the deck. It is set up with double shrouds, a forestay and a jibstay. A topping lift leads to the end of the boom, which is jawed to the mast. The bowsprit is hexagonal in shape and flat on top. It is set up with a chain bobstay and bowsprit shrouds. The sail rig consists of a jib-headed mainsail and a self-tending jib with a club on its foot, both furled with lazyjacks. The mainsail is carried on varnished wood hoops at the mast. There are blue sail covers protecting the dacron sails.

The vessel is flush-decked. Structures include: a wheelbox, on which is mounted a metal wheel with wood handles; a cabin trunk with a slide and companionway doors; a small deck hatch; a box for gear; and a forepeak hatch in two parts. In addition there is a small hatch about 2 1/2' tall, curved back to port. A sampson post, with winch heads for mooring, is on the foredeck. The bowsprit ends at the sampson post, which is set into a strongback as is the mainmast. In the summer the vessel is equipped for charter with several gear boxes and coolers on deck; the forepeak is set up for sleeping and there is access to a head below. A pushboat, carried on davits at the stern, provides mechanical propulsion.

The vessel is painted the traditional white and is decorated with trailoards carred on the longhead with the name LADY KATIE incribed along with
n eagle-shield-arrows motif. Nameboards of varnished wood with the name
LADY KATIE in large gold letters are also carried on the bows. There is a
large, painted eagle's head on the billet-head.

Periodprehistoric1400-14991500-15991600-16991700-17991800-18991900-	agriculture architecture art		ing landscape architectu law literature military music	reilgion science scuipture social/ humanitarian theater x transportation	
Specific dates	1955–6	invention Builder/Architect	Bronza Parks	other (specify)	
a Appl	icable Criteria: X A nd/or icable Exception:	ABCD			

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This vessel is significant as being one of the 35 surviving traditional Chesapeake Bay skipjacks and a member of the last commercial sailing fleet in the United States. Out of a fleet of hundreds of skipjacks that worked Bay waters in the early years of this century, today only this small number remain to carry on the tradition of working sail.

The skipjack evolved as a distinct type of Bay vessel in the 1890s as a cheaper-to-build alternative to the earlier bugeyes and other traditional framed craft, in a period when shipbuilding costs were rising and the oyster catch was diminishing. The type was devised by enlarging (to 25 to 60 feet) the hull of the ordinary, unframed, square-sterned Bay crabbing skiff, and giving it a deadrise bottom, a deck, a cabin, and sloop rig. The result--with its unframed, hard chine, cross-planked, V-bottom--proved inexpensive to build, easy to repair, and could be constructed by a competent house carpenter. Skipjacks were specifically designed as oyster dredge boats, with wide beams and low freeboards lending stability and providing a large working space on deck. The single-mastedarig, with sharp-headed mainsail and large jib, was easy to handle, powerful in light winds, and handy in coming about quickly for another pass over the oyster beds.

The Maryland oyster season begins November 1 and ends March 15. Skipjacks must dredge under sail on all days except Mondays and Tuesdays, when they are allowed to use their motorized pushboat for dredging. The pushboat, normally carried on davits at the stern, is lowered into the water and literally "pushes" the skipjack along from behind, the nose of the pushboat resting agains a "jig" on the stern of the skipjack. The pushboat can also legally be used to get the skipjack to and from the oyster beds each day. Each skipjack's crew is made up of the captain, who is often also the owner, and five crew members.

LADY KATIE is of interest as having been built during the post World War II revival of skipjack building for the working oyster fleet. She was built as one of a trio of skipjacks by the well-known boatbuilder Bronza Parks, at Wingate, Maryland (the other two being the ROSIE PARKS and MARTHA LEWIS). Until the revival of building for the sailing oyster fleet in the 1980s, these three vessels were the last of the skipjacks built in Maryland for twenty-five years. The vessel follows traditional Bay design and construction methods and has worked in the oyster-dredging fleet since her building, presently based at Tilghman Island. The vessel was one of ten skipjacks built after World War II during a boom in the oyster business, all of which are still active except the ROSIE PARKS (now at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum). It is of great interest that even though these

(continued overleaf)

vessels were built over 50 years after the peak skipjack-building years, their design and construction methods closely followed turn-of-the-century prototypes.

LADY KATIE is especially significant for having been built by the mnoted boatbuilder Bronza Parks of Wingate, Maryland. The son and grandson of watermen, Bronza Parks began his career as an oyster dredger, but switched to boatbuilding after constructing a skiff for his own use. Specializing in skiffs and power boats for both pleasure and commercial use in the 1930s and 1940s, Parks prided himself on building no two boats alike—he tried somethin new and different on each. Hoping to imporove on old designs, in 1955 he undertook the construction of the three skipjacks mentioned above. Parks' claim to have created a superior design proved accurate, as the ROSIE PARKS became a champion in the annual workboat races. Bronza Parks was fatally shot at his boatyard in 1958 during an argument with a client.

LADY KATIE is also noteworthy for being one of only three of the working skipjacks that are used for passenger charter, the other two vessels in question being the MINNIE V and the STANLEY NORMAN. The LADY KATIE is licensed to carry up to 6 passengers for hire and for some years now has been taking passengers on day and overnight trips in the Solomons and Tilghman areas.

In the summer of 1984 President Ronald Reagan, accompanied the William Ruckelshaus, weame aboard the LADY KATIE when she was docked at Tilghman, uMarylands, to give a talk on the environment and the future of Chesapeake Bay.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-533

See Thematic Group nomination cover form, Continuation Sheets No. 8-13.

10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of nominated property <u>less than one acre</u> Quadrangle name <u>Tilghman</u> , MD  UTM References do NOT complete UTM references	Quadrangle scale 1:24000
A [1,8] [3 8 4 2 4 0] [4 2 8 5 5 0] Example 2 Some Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
C	
Verbal boundary description and justification  This working vessel is usually docked in the second s	ed at the location indicated in terminous with the hull.
List all states and counties for properties overlapping sta	te or county boundaries
state n/a code county	code
state code county	code
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Anne Witty/ M. E. Hayward	
Radcliffe Maritime Museum organization Maryland Historical Society	date May, 1984
street & number 201 West Monument Street	telephone (301) 685-3750
ity or town Baltimore	state Maryland 21201

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Anneralis, Maryland 21401
(30. 269-2438

Survey No. T-533

## Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No. 2105335833

DOE \_\_yes \_\_no

1. Nar	<b>ne</b> (indicate p	referred name)		
historic	LADY KATIE			
and/or commo	n skipjack			
2. Loc	ation			
street & number	er Gibsomown Rd.			not for publication
city, town	Tilghman	vicinity of	congressional district	
state	Maryland	county	Talbot	
3. Clas	ssification			
Category  district building(s) structure site sobject	both Public Acquisitionin processbeing consideredx not applicable	Status occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible xyes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Useagriculturecommercialeducationalentertainmentgovernmentindustrialmilitary	museum park private residence religious scientific X transportation other:
4. Owi	ner of Prope	rty (give names an	d mailing addresses	of <u>all</u> owners)
name C	aptain Stanley Larri	more		
street & number	r		telephone no	.: 886-2459
,,	ilghman		and zip code Maryla	and 21671
5. Loca	ation of Lega	al Descriptio	n	
ourthouse, regi	istry of deeds, etc.			liber
treet & number				folio
ity, town			state	
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing	Historical Surve	ys
tle				
ate			federal state	
pository for su	rvey records		rederal state	county local
ty, town				
and comments of the section of the s			state	

### 7. Description

Survey No. T-533

Condition excellent

 $\underline{\mathbf{x}}$  good

\_\_ fair

\_\_ deteriorated \_\_ ruins

\_\_ unexposed

Check one
unaltered
altered

Check one \_\_\_ original site

\_\_\_ moved date of move

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8. 31g	nificance		Survey	No. T-533
Period	9 archeology-historic 9 agriculture 9 architecture 9 art		ning landscap law literature military music ement philosopl	social/ humanitarian
Specific date	s 1955-6	Builder/Architect	Bronza Parks	
	olicable Criteria:A and/or			
App	licable Exception:	A B C D	E F G	

8. Significance

Level of Significance:

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

national

This vessel is significant as being one of the 36 surviving traditional Chesapeake Bay skipjacks and a member of the last commercial sailing fleet in the United States. Out of a fleet of hundreds of skipjacks that worked Bay waters in the early years of this century, today only this small number remain to carry on the tradition of working sail.

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1600 1700	D-1499 D-1599 D-1699 D-1799 D-1899	Areas of Signifi  archeology-h archeology-h agriculture architecture art commerce communicati	rehistoric istoric	con con eco eco eng exp	nmunit nservat nomics ncation gineerin	y plannin ion s	g	law litera milit mus phile	ature ary ic osophy	rchitectur		sciend sculpt social huma theate transp	ce ture I/ nitarian
Specific	dates			Builder	/Archi	tect			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
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Prepare	both	a summary par	agraph o	f sign	ifica	nce and	d a g	enera	al sta	tement	of hi	stor	y and

8. Significance

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#### **Major Bibliographical References** Survey No. T-533 Marion V. Brewington, Chesapeake Bay: A Pictorial Maritime History (Cambridge, Md: H.I. Chapelle, Chesapeake Bay Skipjacks (St. Michaels, Md: CBMM, n.d.) **Geographical Data** Acreage of nominated property \_ Quadrangle name Quadrangle scale UTM References do NOT complete UTM references Zone Northing Zone Verbal boundary description and justification List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries state code county code state code county code Form Prepared By name/title Anne Witty/ M.E. Hayward Maryland Historical Society organization date 5/84 street & number 201 W. Monument St. telephone 685-3750 Baltimore city or town Maryland 21201 state The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement. The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights. return to: Maryland Historical Trust Shaw House 21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

